

ance of their having a duty to do in protecting foot-passengers from the serious risks created by such conditions. Already, entirely owing to these gross negligences by the police department, there have been accidents that have inflicted damages, a just compensation for which would be a payment to the injured of many thousands of dollars. Is this great metropolitan city without some official whose function and duty it is to see that the civic machinery for protecting the lives and limbs of citizens is kept in motion? Either there is no such official or he is grossly neglecting his duty, perhaps, however, he fancies he has the authority for setting aside the laws of the city—practically repealing them at his own will.

While the acutest suffering is being undergone by thousands and deaths and grievous sickness have resulted from starvation caused by lack of fuel, we read of thousands of men in the mining region abandoning the work of getting out coal in order to spend a day in a "demonstration." It was certainly not a demonstration of sympathy with the suffering poor, but a somewhat heartless display of callous indifference to the lamentable condition of their fellow wage-earners in this and many other cities.

By formal resolution carried on the 16th inst. by a majority of 22 out of 24 votes the City Council pledged the city to pay \$20,000 yearly for the maintenance of two Hospitals for treating cases of contagious disease, one to be for French and the other English speaking patients. The two Hospitals are to be respectively under the care of the medical staff of Notre Dame and the English Hospitals. So far so good, but there were ruffling sounds in the water and eddies on the surface that showed the presence of hidden snag's on which the scheme may strike and be wrecked.

Dividing patients by nationalities is a pleasing plan to some who, if they had their way, would divide Heaven itself into racial compartments. But what our aldermen style, "English Hospitals," that is, the "General" and the "Victoria" are each crowded with French Canadians, and others than French Canadians are being cared for in Notre Dame and the Hotel Dieu hospitals. It will be found impossible to put French patients only in the "French Civic Hospital," and British patients only in the "English Civic Hospital." Time will soon develop conditions that will necessitate the non-observance of racial distinctions by both Hospitals, and the pressure of circumstances will gradually bring them into practical unity as one institution.

The City Council of Hamilton has affected an insurance of \$1,000 on each of the city firemen, the premiums of which will be deducted from their wages and the policies kept in the office of the City Clerk. This form of compulsory life assurance is likely to be objectionable to some of the men for though they pay all the premiums they have no choice of the company in which they are insured.

England and Germany have joined in a naval demonstration against Venezuela, which is intended to frighten the rulers of that wretched little Republic into paying its debts. There was a similar display seven years ago for similar reasons, which was the occasion of an outburst in Monroe doctrineis n that some feared would provoke a war between the United States and England. It would have done so had not the British Government treated the brag-gadocio of the American President with such cool good humour as to take all seriousness out of the affair. President Roosevelt is keeping his head level, and in his Address gave the Venezuelans a broad hint that America expected them to "meet their obligations" honestly. England and Germany are reported to have seized the Venezuelan war vessels and blockaded the entire coast of that hot-headed Republic. They will, as it were, put the sheriff in possession of their debtor's premises and take their claims by force. There must be a large infusion of Indian blood in the rulers and people generally of that turbulent State, for civilization seems to have made little headway in Venezuela.

A Toronto storekeeper has been fined \$5 for refusing to pay his fare in a street car. He had secured a transfer ticket which he attempted to use on a wholly different route one hour after its time limit had expired. For a trader to imagine that a transfer ticket was good any time on any route is surprising, learning otherwise cost him \$5. The case elicited a judgment that a transfer ticket is only good for a continuous trip and must be used on the next car that is available for the desired trip after alighting from the first one.

Voting in Ontario under the referendum resulted in 150,713 votes being cast in favour of the Prohibition Act being put into force and 82,348 against it. The Act required a much larger vote to be polled in favour of its being enforced, it, consequently, becomes a dead letter in spite of the large majority of 68,665. The whole affair was so very mixed that nothing definite can be learnt from the referendum vote beyond there being a very strong sentiment in Ontario against the abuses of the liquor trade.